Review of MoU for tourist trains

2914. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 25th March, 1999 under the caption, "Depositors stunned over Sterling Resorts' MoU to run tourist trains";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether, in view of the facts stated in the aforesaid news-item it is proposed to review the MoU signed with Sterling Resorts for running two Deluxe tourist trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The MoU is being reviewed.

(d) Does not arise.

Chain pulling in South Central Railway

2915. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chain pulling incidents are increasing in South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether unauthorised personnel, hawkers and ticketless passengers gain entry at odd hours into compartments;

(c) what are the duties of the Vigilance staff in this regard;

(d) whether any incentives have been offered by South Central Railway for staff who fulfill targets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) some instances have come to notice.

(c) watching of unauthorised entry by hawkers etc. is not the core function of vigilance staff. However, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police to check the entry and movement of unauthorised hawkers and ticketless travellers etc.

(d) and (e) No incentive is given to the staff for detecting cases of Alarm Chain Pulling. However, an incentive scheme for recognising the good work done by the ticket checking staff is in force on the Railways for detecting cases of ticketless/irregular travelling and unbooked luggage. As per this scheme, 5% of penalty earnings above Rs. 25000/- per month is given to the ticket checking staff.

Harassment to passengers travelling by Rajdhani Express

2916. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British High Commission has recently complained to Government about harassment meted out to British national travelling by Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Guwahati, by certain armed persons having no reservation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter and to ensure that persons having no reservation do not disturb and harass genuine passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) An incident of heavily armed bodyguards accompanying Shri Pappu Yadav, ex. M.P. forcibly entering Ist AC coaches of New Delhi—Guwahati Rajdhani Express and occupying berths reserved for other passengers has come to notice. Mr. R.J. Rees, a

British national visiting India and travelling in Ist AC from New Delhi to New Jalpaiguri of the train was threatened at gunpoint by them who had no reservation in Ist AC. There were heated exchanges and Mr. Rees was threatened and subsequently allowed to occupy an upper berth. He was also prevented from leaving the berth until these persons had detrained at Patna.

(c) Since this is a law and order problem, the matter has been referred to Bihar Government for further action. Besides, manning of the reserved coaches, steps are also taken by Railways with the assistance of police and Railway Protection force personnel to avoid recurrence of such incidents. However, an apology has since been sent to the British High Commission regretting the inconvenience to Mr. Rees.

Maintenance of trains at New Delhi

2917. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that almost 50% of trains that roll out of the maintenance pit at the New Delhi Railway Station are given fitness certificates even though they are not safe to run;

(b) if so, what is the existing procedure to ensure that trains are absolutely safe to run, before they are rolled out of the maintenance pit; and

(c) whether Government have examined the checking system with a view to remove the deficiency, if any; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Sir, no train is given fitness certificate until it is safe to run.

(b) under the existing system, trains are thoroughly attended in the maintenance pit line and a fit memo is issued by the supervisor before train is rolled out of the pit after ensuring that the train is absolutely safe to run.

(c) yes, Sir. The functioning of coach examination and maintenance system is regularly monitored through inspections and internal auditing. Safety aspects are also superchecked by safety teams deputed to the depot.

अम्बिकापुर को नई रेलगाड़ी द्वारा जोड़ना

2918. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 31 मार्च, 1999 की स्थिति के अनुसार, अम्बिकापुर को नई रेलगाड़ी से जोड़ने, नए रेलवे साइडिंग का निर्माण करने तथा राजगढ़ में कम्प्यूटरीकृत आरक्षण सुविधा प्रदान करने और मध्य प्रदेश में बिलासपुर में नए रेलवे जोन की स्थापना करने की दिशा में क्या प्रगति हुई है;

(ख) उक्त प्रयोजनार्थ कितने वन-क्षेत्र एवं कृषि योग्य भूमि की आवश्यकता होगी; और

(ग) उक्त प्रयोजनार्थ वित्तीय प्रावधानों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) से (ग) सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

ड्राइवरों/गार्डों के लिए वाकी-टॉकी का प्रावधान

2919. **श्री खान गुफ़रान जाहिदी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार रेल दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए रेलवे के ड्राइवरों/गार्डों को वाकी-टॉकी उपलब्ध कराने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो रेल दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने हेतु क्या सुरक्षा उपाय किए जा रहे हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) और (ख) आपात स्थिति में सभी "ए" और "बी" मार्गों पर चल रही मेल/एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों के ड्राइवरों और गार्डों को संचार व्यवस्था सुलभ कराने हेतु वॉकी-टाकी पहले ही मुहैया करा दिए गए हैं। यह सुविधा अब सभी सवारी गाड़ियों में मुहैया कराई जा रही है।